

hypoesthesia of the scalp in the donor area. It is usually temporary, but may persist for as long as 18 months in some cases.

The density of transplanted hair is usually thinner especially in areas that are totally bald. The patient should be informed of this pre-operatively and a second sitting can be undertaken to increase hair density (fig. 6 a&b).

Complications

Complications of hair transplantation are few and rare. True infections in the recipient areas occur infrequently. In the donor areas, infection may be seen around the sutures but it usually resolves easily after suture removal. Epidermal cysts may be seen occasionally and need drainage. It is important not to harvest too big a donor area because tension on the suture line can lead to



Fig.6a & 6b: A 25 year old male with grade 7 baldness. Before (a) and after (b) Showing the hair restoration after a single sitting of follicular unit transfer with 1500 grafts.

dehiscence and a wide scar.

HAIR TRANSPLANTS IN SPECIAL SITES

Eyebrow transplantation can be done to improve or recreate eyebrows. It is an aesthetic essentiality to follow the direction of the eyebrow hairs whilst creating a new line. Around 150 micro-grafts are usually required for an eyebrow of one side. The donor site for eyebrow transplantation should be of finer hair preferably from the nape of the neck or the temporal region⁸. Recipient holes are made with a No. 20 or 21-gauge needle or a 0.7 mm micro blade. Cyanoacrylate glue may be used over the grafted areas to keep the them in place during the immediate post-operative period.

Grafting eyelashes is a more challenging procedure. Fortunately, only a few lashes are necessary to produce a good result. Six, one-hair micro-grafts per lid may satisfy most patients. The cyanoacrylate glue is again very useful in keeping the grafts in place.

The rate of hair growth of the scalp hair is much faster than those of the eyebrows and elsewhere. Patients must be informed pre-operatively that this transplanted hair will need trimming from time to time.

Moustache reconstruction by hair transplantation is especially useful in patients who have had a cleft lip or a scar following trauma. The hair in the moustache area is much more wiry and courser than hair in the scalp. Probably harvesting hair from the beard area just inferior to the jaw line provides better donor hair for moustache reconstruction⁹.

Patients who have undergone hair transplantation using older techniques have larger plugs. This gives the hairline a pluggy, cornrow appearance, which needs correction. The current approach is by plug reduction and recycling, and it is applied aggressively to the front two rows¹⁰.

CONCLUSION

Recent advances in technology have made hair replacement surgery a viable option for many people but we must utilize this technique prudently. It is

very important to form a team because one individual cannot perform the entire procedure single-handedly. Fine tuning and accuracy in all steps of the surgery are essential in getting good results. No compromise should be made with proper lighting in the operating room and with the quality of instruments. A comfortable ambience in the operating room and use of audio-visual entertainment break the monotony, both for the patient and the surgical team. A patient is worse off after a poorly performed hair replacement surgery. If done judiciously, transplantation is a very rewarding procedure, both for the surgeon and the patient (fig.7 & 8).



Fig.7a & 7b A 26 year old male with grade 7 baldness. Before (a) and after (b) Showing appearance of the patient after a single sitting of follicular unit transfer with 1300 grafts.



Fig.8a & 8b A 26 year old female with cicatricial alopecia from childhood. Before (a) and (b) Showing the same patient after two sittings of 1000 grafts each.

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Nobel Prize in Medicine

Drs. Andrew Fire and Graig Mello have been awarded Nobel Prize in Medicine for the year 2006 for the discovery of "Silence Genes" which has opened new pathways for treating diseases by the nobel assembly of stock Holmel Karlinsaa Institute. Through their experiment with Nematode worms; both scientists form of RNA can switch off targeted genes in a process known as RNA interference. This technology has become a hot area of research for pharmaceutical companies who view this as a promising new way to tackle a range of conditions.